booths to Internet enabled multi-functional Kiosks subject to suitability of commercial, technical and other details.

Nepalese Prime Minister's visit to India

*379. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the discussions that took place with the Nepalese Prime Minister during his recent five days official visit to India;

(b) whether issues like increasing security on the border, removing trade barriers recently imposed by India, were discussed;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) His excellency Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal, paid an official good will visit to India from March 20-25, 2002 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India. During the visit, PM Deuba called on the President and Vice President and held talks with the Prime Minister. The Home Minister, External Affairs Minister, Defence Minister, Commerce and Industries Minister, Human Resource Development Minister and Water Resource Minister called on the Nepalese Prime Minister. PM Deuba attended a business meeting organised jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries. He also visited Kolkata where he met the Governor and Chief Minister of West Bengal. The discussions were friendly and cordial, in keeping with the close relations between India and Nepal.

2. The discussions held during PM Deuba's visit focused on issues relating to terrorism and bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Both Prime Minister reiterated the determination of the two countries to work closely in fighting the scourge of terrorism which was adversely affecting peace and stability in the region as also impeding socio-economic development. The Prime Ministers renewed the commitment of the two countries not to allow their respective territories to be used for activities inimical to the interest of the

other. In pursuance of their shared objective of combating terrorism and cross-border crimes, the two Governments agreed to intensify their ongoing cooperation and to continue working closely with each other.

3. As regards trade and economic co-operation, the two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the successful renewal of the India-Nepal Trade Treaty for a period of five years till March 5, 2007 with mutually agreed amendments to the Protocol to the Treaty without changing its basic framework.

4. On the Pancheshwar Hydle Project, the two Prime Ministers noted that considerable work had been done on the field investigations for the Joint DPR. They agreed that all out efforts should be made to complete a Joint DPR before June this year.

5. An Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology was also signed during the visit.

6. The Nepalese Prime Minister invited the Prime Minister to pay an official visit to Nepal at an early date. The invitation was accepted. The dates of the visit would be decided through diplomatic channels.

E-bill facility

*380. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of E-bill facility operated by Post Offices;

(b) whether Government are going to establish E-bill post service centres in various parts of Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Department of Posts launched a pilot E-bill post service through which customers are able to pay their bills in respect of a variety of public utilities through select computerised post offices in